



Department of Public Health

October 16, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TB Hospital Event Update 15

El Paso, Texas – The following information has been compiled in order to update the media and local community as to the TB Hospital Event and investigation of possible TB exposure.

Please find below the information for patients who were specifically identified as exposed, as previous updates were comprehensive of both identified and patients who were concerned or referred by private physician. All data is current as of 10/13/14.

Total identified patients	860
Total identified patients contacted	817 (95%)
Identified patients with appointments at DPH	643 (75%)
Identified patients initial screenings	614 (71%)
Identified patients completed screenings	569 (66%)
Identified patients reporting outside care (New Mexico, Mexico, or other)	93
Total Positive Tests	11
Positive Tests with BCG Vaccine (possible false positive)	7
Active cases of TB	0

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Department of Public Health
5115 El Paso Drive | El Paso, Texas 79905 | (915) 771-5702

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Parents who receive a notification letter are reminded that they should contact the Health Department as soon as possible to schedule an appointment. In order to expedite the appointment process we ask that the following points be clarified:

- There are three numbers that can be used: 2-1-1, (915) 771-1228, or 1-877-541-7905
- For 2-1-1, callers are asked to select their language (1 for English, 2 for Spanish, 3 for any other language). They should then select option 1.
- The appointment center is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Background

October 13, 2014

Seven additional patients have been added to the list, bringing the total to 860 patients recommended for screening (previous number of 854 included one duplicate, $854-1+7=860$).

September 29, 2014

El Paso, Texas – A total of 853 babies have been identified as potentially exposed. The following is a breakdown based on their locations as reported by the hospital. We continue to use mail, certified mail, telephone calls, and personal visits to make contact with these parents and children.

Texas	764	New Mexico	59
Mexico	27	Arizona	1
Minnesota	1	Montana	1

September 23, 2014

El Paso, Texas – The City of El Paso Department of Public Health has received a list of approximately 45 more babies who have been exposed to TB at Providence Memorial Hospital. The exposure was in a nursery unit via a healthcare worker who was confirmed as an active TB case. As with any TB investigation the list of exposures/possible exposures can fluctuate over time. These parents are receiving the same certified mail and/or telephone notification as the 706 who were on the original list. They are also being asked to call 2-1-1 or 1-877-541-7905 in order to have their child screened.

September 19, 2014

El Paso, Texas – The City of El Paso Department of Public Health (DPH) has determined that more than 700 patients and more than 40 employees were exposed to a hospital employee with an active case of Tuberculosis (TB) in the post-partum and newborn nursery area of Providence Memorial Hospital (PMH). This exposure took place between September 2013 and August 2014. The DPH is working closely with the staff of PMH and has carefully reviewed employment and medical records to determine exactly which infants and employees were exposed. The families of each patient are being contacted via telephone and certified letter with proactive screening instructions.

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The Mission of the Department of Public Health is to provide research and evaluation, prevention, intervention, and mobilization services to the people of El Paso so they can be healthy, productive, safe and secure. For more information on the programs and services offered by the Department of Public Health, visit EPHealth.com or dial 2-1-1.

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